

3. (currently amended) The compound according to Claim 2 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein X¹, X², X³, X⁴, and X⁶ are C.

4. (currently amended) The compound according to Claim 2 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein one of X^2 , X^3 and X^4 is N, the other is remaining are C; and X^1 and X^6 are C.

5. (currently amended) The compound according to Claim 2 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein ~~two of~~ X^2 , X^3 and X^4 are N, ~~the remaining is C;~~ and X^1 and X^6 are C.

6. (currently amended) The compound according to Claim 2 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein one of X^2 , X^3 and X^4 is N, the other is remaining are C; X^1 is S; and X^6 is C.

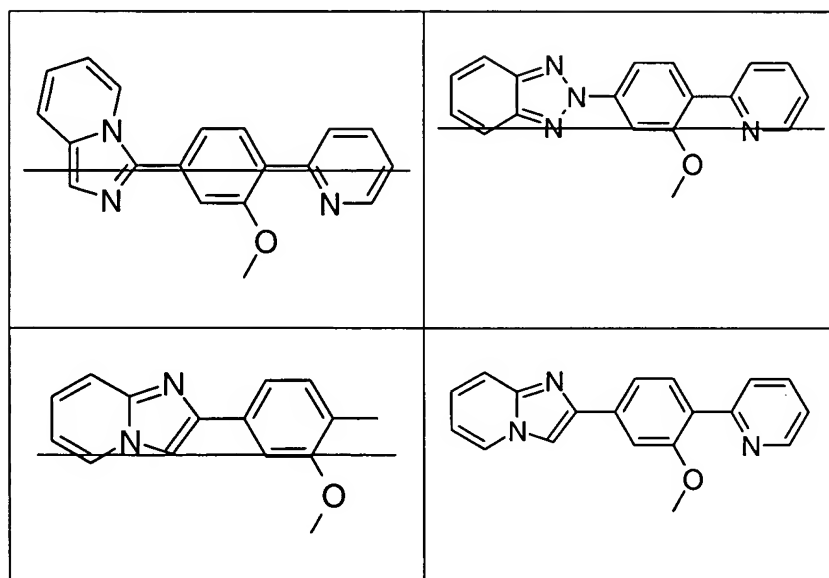
7. (currently amended) The compound according to Claim 2 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein one of X^2 , X^3 and X^4 is N, the other is remaining are C; X^1 is S; and X^6 is N.

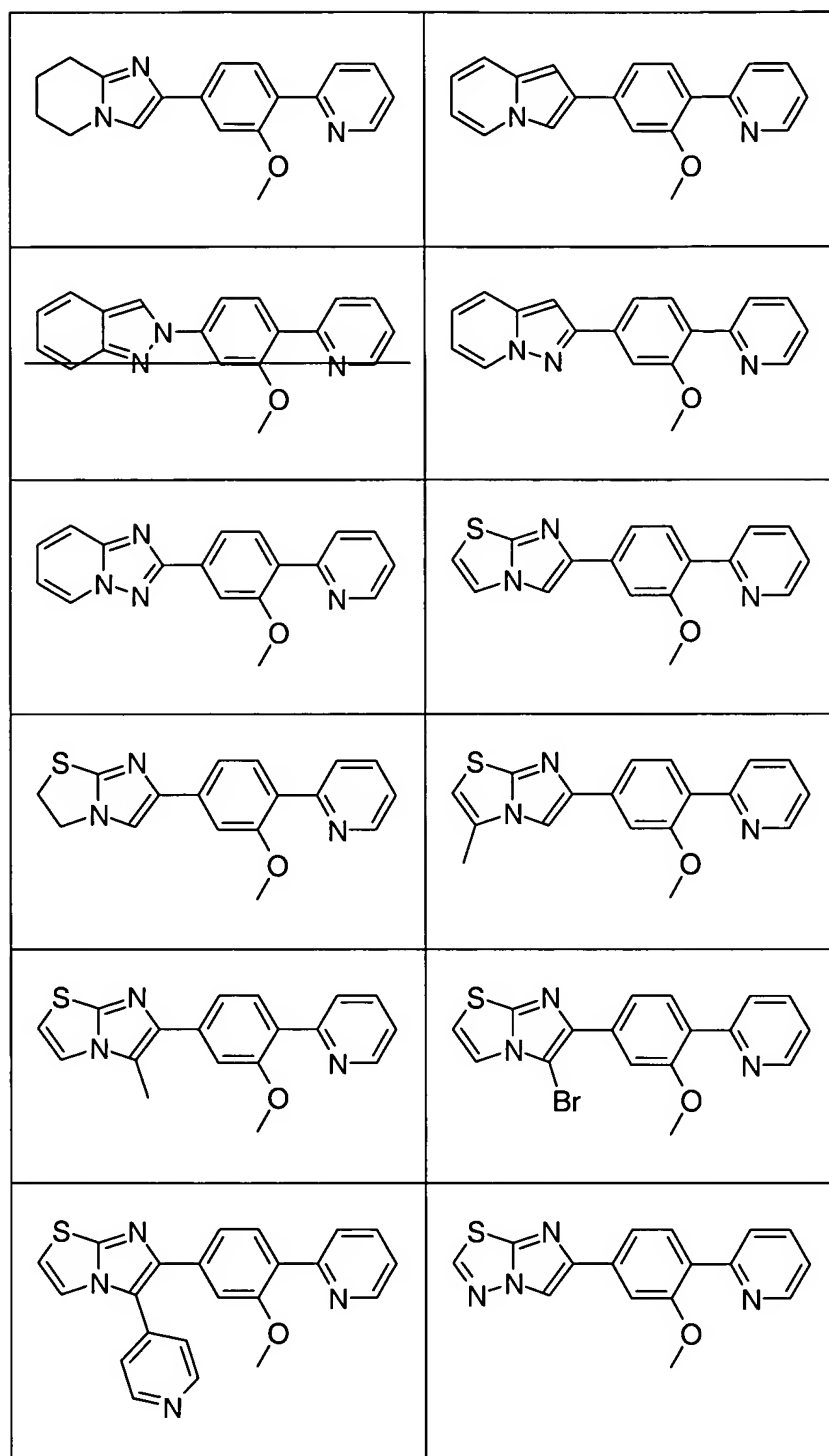
8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A compound represented by





or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising: a therapeutically effective amount of the compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A method of treatment ~~or prevention~~ of pain comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount, ~~or a prophylactically effective amount,~~ of the compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (currently amended) A method of treatment ~~or prevention~~ of a pain disorder wherein said pain disorder is acute pain, persistent pain, chronic pain, inflammatory pain, or neuropathic pain, comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount, ~~or a prophylactically effective amount,~~ of the compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A method of treatment ~~or prevention~~ of neuropathic pain comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount, ~~or a prophylactically effective amount,~~ of the compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) A method of treatment ~~or prevention~~ of inflammatory pain comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount, ~~or a prophylactically effective amount,~~ of the compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (new) The compound of claim 1, optionally substituted with a substituent selected from halogen, C0-6alkyl, or heteroaryl.